

- ☑ Eight hundred sixty-nine reservists activated as of Wednesday; 148 on MPA
- ☑ 337th crews take to the stage (back page)
- ☑ Street names mark history of base (back page)

Briefs

722nd ready to deploy

Thirty medical specialists of the 722nd Aeromedical Staging Squadron, the Patriot Wing's geographically separated unit at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., arrived here by bus on Monday to process through the mobilization line. Those activated include a doctor, nurses, and emergency medical technicians.

They remained at Westover through this week conducting weapons familiarization and other administrative duties. Squadron members expect to soon deploy overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Co-workers support troops

Capt. John Crotty, 439th AES deputy director of administration, has no doubt about the support of his fellow employees at his civilian job. He recently helped deliver boxes of home baked cookies, muffins, brownies and breads to the Pioneer Valley USO.

Troops passing through the Westover Passenger Terminal enjoyed the home baked treats thanks to the generosity of staff members of the Chestnut Hill Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, East Longmeadow.

Crotty's co-workers at the center have also set up a box to collect toiletry articles and other small gifts for troops going overseas in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, said Judith Rescia, director of admissions, who helped deliver the baked goods.

Yes, that was one of Westover's own in *Parade*

Readers who picked up Sunday's newspaper found a Westover reservist's face on the front page of the *Parade* magazine inside.

CMSgt. John Szewc, 42nd Aerial Port Squadron air freight superintendent, was among a cross-section of people whose faces and civilian salaries were included in the magazine's "What People Make" coverage.

In his civilian life, Szewc is a postman who works in the Hartford, Conn., area.



(photo by MSgt. Tom Allocco)

ARMY MOBILITY - Sergeant First Class Trevor George inspects a rows of five-ton trucks that were part of about 80 trucks and humvees of the National Guard's 1166th Transportation Company from Ware which staged at Westover in February. Three C-5s airlifted 25 of the trucks to Pope AFB, N.C., while the remaining trucks were hauled on flatbed trailers.

42nd aerial porters put wings on fleet of National Guard trucks

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Patriot Wing aerial porters are in the business of filling C-5 bays with outsize, heavy cargo. So it was just in their nature recently when they thought to match up three empty C-5s with rows of heavy-duty trucks.

The result of a little initiative proved to be a major savings for the Massachusetts National Guard. Westover aerial porters teamed with C-5 aircrews and helped a local Army Guard unit complete their deployment to Fort Bragg, N.C.

Members of the 42nd APS loaded 25 trucks belonging to the 1166th Transportation Company onto the C-5s last week. The large trucks came from Ware. While the guard unit had some 50 trucks remaining to take by flatbed to Fort Bragg, the airlift still saved about \$50,000, said CMSgt. Bruce L. Westcott, 42nd APS operations superintendent.

Westcott, who is also an air reserve technician at Westover, regularly attends wing staff meetings, where he learns of future C-5 missions leaving the base. On his way to a recent meeting, he spotted the rows of trucks sitting in front of wing headquarters. That

same morning, Westcott learned of three empty C-5s going to Pope AFB, located next to Fort Bragg.

"I saw the (C-5) missions start popping up," he said. "The plans office here was involved initially, so they handed us the guard unit's phone number. I called the sergeant major, and it went from there."

Within five hours, the trucks were on their way to being airlifted. However, there was much more involved than simply driving the trucks aboard the Galaxies. Westcott said the aerial porters cleaned and inspected them before the onload. In all, 25 trucks went aboard the C-5s. Each load, which weighed in at about 188,000 pounds, took about 30 minutes.

"We brought the trucks into a hangar," said SSgt. Michael Cormier, a 42nd APS loader. He then drove the trucks through the back end of the massive airlifters, and assisted loadmasters with the correct placement of each vehicle. "Once you get the routine down, it's easier," Cormier said.

Westcott said the aerial porters carried out the mission with great enthusiasm despite

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Trucks... (Continued from page 1)

the late hours and February's sub-zero temperatures. "You have to see their faces when they hear about this kind of thing," he said. "They just light up. The cold weather motivates you too. That airplane's like a wind tunnel."

Lt. Col. James Carey, 42nd APS commander, said the effort was typical of his squadron's readiness to accept a challenge. "It's indicative of the quality of people we have," he said.

The last of the three C-5s delivered its load of trucks to Pope on March 1.

Pat Stats

Served since Feb. 2, 2003

1,930 passengers

306 aircraft

7,370,723 pounds of cargo

Info provided by

TSgt. Kevin Nee, 42nd APS

Box lunches

1,143 served to Westover people

638 to duty passengers

1,481 hot meals served

Provided by

TSgt. David Beauregard, 439th SVS

Fuel (since Feb. 1)

2,907,037 gallons of JP-8 issued

to assigned and transient aircraft

Provided by

Jim Maloney, fuels accounting

337th AS aircrews take to the stage

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

It takes endurance to make Enduring Freedom work. Since the February kickoff of the surge, Westover aircrews are on the road every day, going on overdrive to deliver the equipment and troops that put muscle behind Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 337th Airlift Squadron concluded more than a year of active duty at the end of last September. Since then eight aircrews have been serving on Enduring Freedom orders.

As of yesterday, five Westover aircrews were overseas operating out of staging areas from which they deliver support material and troops to the Southwest Asia area of operations.

A typical period overseas could last two weeks and include two or more missions downrange. Crews could come home earlier, but at other times mission requirements have kept some crews on the road for up to a month.

Even the shortest, easiest peacetime mission is demanding. For an aircrew it's a

roundtrip of constant attention to detail to take the big Galaxy safely across oceans and continents. It's a trip in which you forget what time or day it is back at home.

Now it's even tougher, while staying within the strict bounds of crewrest for safety. "It can be multiple 24-hour days and minimal crew rest," said Lt. Col. Sandy Whittier, 337th AS operations chief.

Aircrews' families are also in the forefront of the Enduring Freedom stepped up activity. After long missions, aircrews can be home for as little as three days before they are again alerted for a new overseas mission.

"The job they're doing takes commitment. For us to be able to provide five volunteer aircrews on the road is noteworthy," Whittier said.

The Enduring Freedom missions typically use augmented nine-member crews of three each of pilots, flight engineers and loadmasters. They leave Westover to pick up cargo and troops elsewhere and proceed across the North Atlantic where they often refuel from Air Guard KC-135s from Pease ANGB, N.H. or Bangor IAP, Maine.

Street names mark people, aircraft in base history

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

Chances are that while we may know where many of the roads take us on base, some of us might not know the relevance of the street names to Westover.

Just like the vintage World War II hangars along the flight line, the street names represent the base's historic past. The following is a list of some of the street signs and the meanings behind them:

Provider Avenue: Named for the C-123K Provider, a small tactical airlifter that was assigned to Westover from 1973 to 1982. The C-123s came from L.G. Hanscom Field, Bedford, Mass., in September 1973, and were first assigned to the 901st Tactical Airlift Group.

Later on, the group was inactivated, with its members and aircraft falling under the 439th Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW) in early 1974.

Saunders Avenue is named for Brig. Gen. Donald Saunders, who was killed in a KC-135 crash here on June 27, 1958.

Saunders was commander of the 57th Air Division at Westover. He was on board the tanker for a trans-Atlantic world record attempt when the aircraft struck some power lines shortly after takeoff.

The KC-135, the last of three aircraft that took off that night, careened across the newly-opened Massachusetts Turnpike and exploded in a field at about 12:30 a.m. The general was among 15 people on the tanker killed in the crash.

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Contact us:

DSN:589-2020 - (413) 557-2020

www.afrc.af.mil/439aw

439patriot.editor@westover.af.mil

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Expressions

